current year including doubling of the first instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and provisions of an additionality of Rs. 37 crore for KBK districts in the Annual Plan of Orissa for 1998-99. Further, from the Additional Central Assistance available for Basic Minimum Services an amount of Rs. 7 crore has been earmarked for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units in these districts.

World Bank's remark regarding Poverty alleviation

911. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has concluded that anti-poverty Programmes have not been cost effective in reducing Poverty; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) In the Report "Options for more effective public services to reduce poverty" dated May 28, 1999 the World Bank has observed: "Anti poverty programs that either do not reach the poor or that bestow a disproportionate share of their benefits on the non-poor are programs in urgent need of reform. The majority of India's safety-net initiatives arc misusing scarce financial resources that could be best invested to increase the poor's access to health and education services that have been shown to equip the poor to help themselves".

The Govt. of India has a comprehensive anti-poverty programme funded largely through domestic resources but also comprising a component of external assitance that seeks to address the felt needs of the sections of population below poverty line. The externally assisted projects are prepared and appraised by. the World Bank itself as being consistent with the overall objectives of addressing the pressing areas of concern in poverty reduction.

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Survey regarding availability of water

912. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government to make available water by digging deep wells in various parts of Gujarat, particularly in the Rann of Kutch;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the outcome; and

(c) the details of future plans of Government to provide sufficient water to convert the desert area in greenery and also for irrigation purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The long-term observations of Ground Water levels in Gujarat have been made by the Central Ground Water Board. They have shown a decline of water levels upto 10.61 meters in shallow aquifers and upto 50.37 meters in deeper aquirfers in the State. The District-wise details of decline of Ground Water level in Gujarat are indicated in the Statement *(See* below)